

South Dallas Cultural Center Renaming Petition

Briefing presented to the
City Council
Quality of Life Committee
6/11/2007



Cultural Facilities Naming Policy

- Adopted by City Council on April 26, 2006 [Resolution # 06-1259].
- Policy outlines process to name or rename cultural facilities owned by the City of Dallas.
- Specifies that cultural facilities, or sub-areas within cultural facilities, may be named for individuals or groups who have made:
 - Exceptional contributions to the community, nation or world;
 - Major donations of land or funds for the facility.
- Charges the Cultural Affairs Commission with reviewing and making a recommendation to City Council.

South Dallas Cultural Center

- The South Dallas Cultural Center (SDCC) was funded through the 1982 Bond Program and opened in 1989. It has operated under this name since its opening.
- The SDCC closed for renovation in October 2005 and will reopen in September 2007.
- The SDCC is a multidisciplinary arts center focused on the arts of the African Diaspora with year-round programs in dance, music, theater, film and visual arts.
- The Center offers arts enrichment classes with an emphasis on service to the youth of South Dallas.

South Dallas Cultural Center Petition

- Petitioner, Concerned Citizens for the Arts (through the Artist & Elaine Thornton Foundation for the Arts) submitted petition package on 4/26/2006.
- Petitioner requested to rename facility as the Arthello Beck Jr. Cultural Arts Center.
- Arthello Beck Jr. (1941-2004) was a Dallas visual artist, gallery owner and educator. He exhibited his work in Dallas and other communities; held membership in many artist associations; and completed a public art project at DFW International Airport.

Petition Review Process

- Verification of signatures per Policy:
 - 1323 signatures submitted;
 - 776 City of Dallas addresses [Per Policy, the minimum is 750];
 - 547 illegible, incomplete or out-of-city.
- Cultural Affairs Commission held a community meeting to solicit public input (4/19/2007).

Petition Review Process

- Cultural Affairs Commission Long Range Planning Committee met on 5/1/2007 to discuss petition:
 - Committee voted 5-1 to rename the facility “South Dallas Arthello Beck Jr. Cultural Center.”

Cultural Affairs Commission Recommendation

- The Cultural Affairs Commission considered the Committee's recommendation at their regular meeting on 5/17/07.
- The Cultural Affairs Commission amended the Committee's recommendation and voted 13-1 to recommend that:
 - The facility retain its official name South Dallas Cultural Center
 - A gallery in the facility be named Arthello Beck Jr. Gallery

Cultural Affairs Commission Recommendation

- Resolution will be presented to City Council on June 13, 2007 to:
 - Maintain South Dallas Cultural Center as the official name of the center located at 3400 Fitzhugh;
 - Deny the petition to rename the center as the Arthello Beck Jr. Cultural Arts Center;
 - Name a gallery in the center as the Arthello Beck Jr. Gallery.



Questions?